

## Spokane County Community Engagement Supplemental Grant Application

1. a) Our community is proposing a \$200,000 budget to fund two complementary programs that will deepen community engagement around criminal justice reform: 1) A Peer Navigator Training Program and 2) structured, recurring community meetings.

First, the grant will fund a Pilot Peer Navigator Training Program (PPNTP) for individuals impacted by law and justice systems. Peer Navigators, defined as individuals who are directly or indirectly impacted by law and justice systems, use their personal experience to assist others endeavoring to stabilize from issues related to contact with the criminal justice system, such as mental health issues, housing and financial instability, and substance use disorders and addiction. The PPNTP will employ a Community Coordinator as a Spokane County independent contractor, who will oversee, develop and recruit participants for the program. Curriculum for the PPNTP will be developed in partnership with the community and system stakeholders. It will include leadership training, as well as navigator and victim advocacy training. The program will also provide for hands-on training, placing participants in peer navigator internships with community organizations. Participants will receive modest stipends paid for by this grant for the training.

Upon completion of the PPNT, participants will graduate with state certifications as Community Health Workers and Peer Support Specialists, thereby increasing employment marketability, financial stability, and improved public safety across our region. The Community Coordinator will develop relationships with potential employers for graduates to increase the likelihood of employment upon completion of program.

Second, in addition to running the PPNT, the Community Coordinator will facilitate monthly community meetings to foster ongoing dialogue and collaboration between community members and system stakeholders (see also 1(b)). Each monthly meeting will address a different issue or department within Spokane County's law and justice system to deepen community understanding of the system and stakeholders, and allow for authentic communication and relationship building between community members and systems leaders. Meetings may be structured as presentations, town halls, and/or listening sessions. Additionally, these community meetings will serve as a venue for county leaders to present nascent county initiatives and receive feedback from community members. All community and system stakeholders will engage in authentic collaboration to discuss perspectives and exchange ideas with the goal of improving justice system processes and equitability.

Qualitative outcomes are to be measured using an appreciative inquiry process and assessment tools such as self-reports, evaluations, and surveys and will be used in the two domains of the program i.e.: PPTNP/Community Meetings. We seek guidance from technical assistance partners in developing meaningful quantitative measures.

- Personnel Costs
  - Community Coordinator \$62,420.00
- Training Costs
  - Peer Navigator stipends \$103,950 - 42 navigators, 165 training hours, \$15/hour

- Victim Advocacy Trainer \$5,000.00 - Trainer will provide training to PPNTTP in Crisis Response, trainees will be prepared to assist victims navigate criminal justice system as well as refer victims to appropriate resources, i.e.: LCSNW/YWCA.
- Leadership Development \$8,400.00 - Spokane Alliance will use evidence based practices to provide the PPNTTP with leadership/facilitation skills.
- Trauma Informed Best Practices \$5,600.00 - Tools for Change/EWU MSW interns will train PPNTTP in trauma response/facilitating appropriate response for individuals in crisis.
- Cultural Competency \$1,350.00 - American Indian Community Center will share with the PPNTTP an awareness of culture as well as intercultural communication.
- Racial Equity Toolkit Training \$1,350.00 - RE Committee will train the PPNTTP to view interaction with community through a lens of equity.
- Materials \$500.00
- Monthly Community Engagement Meetings
  - Venue \$360.00
  - Childcare \$720.00
  - Transportation (public transit) \$2,400.00
  - Food \$1,800.00
  - Facilitator \$6,000.00
  - Materials \$150.00

b) The Community Coordinator will facilitate monthly community engagement meetings in various communities and neighborhoods throughout Spokane County. To increase participation across diverse populations, attendees will have access to childcare at no cost, transportation assistance and refreshments.

Meetings will be facilitated by graduates of the PPNTTP or other previously trained impacted community members. Monthly community meetings will cultivate authentic community conversations with a focus on respect for diversity, transparency, trust building and cultivating sustainable relationships between community members and system stakeholders.

System stakeholders and community members will participate in collaborative efforts to enhance problem solving across all system processes, including every decision point.

The PPNTTP as well as the community engagement meetings will seek qualitative outcomes to be measured using an appreciative inquiry process and assessment tools such as self-reports, evaluations and surveys. We seek guidance from technical assistance partners in developing meaningful quantitative measures of leadership capacity building, community-system collaboration, knowledge and skills of navigators and the navigator's impact on individuals and families.

- c) We are seeking support from technical assistance partners with the following:
- all webinars listed in Appendix A of this application
  - access to partner tools and resources
  - attendance with supportive funding at the partner's workshops

- introductory in-person site visit
  - assistance in developing goals and outcome measures for the local plan
  - additional site visits for guidance on plan implementation
  - support developing qualitative and quantitative measures of impact
  - support for publicizing events
  - assistance developing articles and case studies
2. Spokane County is well positioned to further meaningful community engagement given the local governance structure, and the level of involvement in criminal justice initiatives across local agencies and community organizations.

First, the Spokane Regional Law & Justice (SRLJC) holds monthly public meetings with system leaders to advise on criminal justice initiatives and reforms. Next, the Racial Equity Committee of SRLJC engages a cross-section of racially and economically diverse community members and system stakeholders.

Additionally, the Spokane Police Department, Spokane County Sheriff Department, Spokane BHO, and an array of local organizations (see e.g., 2(a)) have articulated an interest in supporting community engagement efforts under this grant. The members of these organizations and government agencies constitute a diverse population of systems professionals and community members that have the ability to build leadership capacity and increase shared power access across socio-economic, racial, and ethnic lines.

- a. Racial Equity Committee members/participants are affiliated with a diverse cross-section of community leaders facilitating workgroups such as NAACP, American Indian Community Center and Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners.
  - b. A working group does exist, as referenced above.
3. Community members hold a role in every position of the governance structure alongside system professionals, from selection of the training program's Community Coordinator to facilitation of community meetings and participation in all events and trainings. The governance structure is outlined below:
- Community Coordinator
  - Community Navigator PPNTP
  - Racial Equity Committee Chair/Vice Chair
  - Center for Justice
  - Criminal Justice Administrator
  - Members of SRLJC Administration (2)
  - Victims Services Representative
4. Historically the following populations have been excluded from decision-making are: formerly incarcerated, veterans, chronically homeless, people of color, LGBTQ, those with disabilities, substance abuse and mental health issues, those impacted by generational trauma and directly impacted families.

- a. Through this grant concrete steps will be taken to reach deeper into historically marginalized and excluded communities to increase access to shared power and decision-making. Community engagement efforts include neighborhood outreach, workshops, public forums, media and public access facilities and peer support outreach to those within the system and relevant training for those in recovery, reentry, family members and others.

Organizations and entities that are not currently being used to their full potential, include schools, service providers, faith-based organizations, neighborhood policing stations (COP, SCOPE) and neighborhood councils that provide an existing infrastructure that could support leadership capacity building and could impact grassroots decision-making.

- b. The Safety and Justice Challenge Phase II Grant has afforded the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council's Racial Equity Subcommittee with the opportunity to facilitate quarterly neighborhood-level community engagement meetings throughout the county. These meetings have resulted in strategic workgroups, have built relationships, increased visibility and transparency through community action and have allowed us to identify the need for leadership capacity building.
5. The PPNTP proposed in this grant will allow for leadership development, capacity building and a priority focus on local criminal justice reform. Disparities, incarceration and recidivism rates are expected to decline as a result of the enhanced problem-solving strategies employed through PPNTP and through community meetings.
  6. The Racial Equity Committee has initiated community engagement. This grant will seek to build upon the success by increasing quarterly meetings to monthly trust building collaboration with systems stakeholders.

Racial disparity is the criminal justice system's core affliction. Intentional steps toward racial equity are the core solution that will make these aspirational ideals a reality.

7. The following system stakeholders who holds different roles within the criminal justice system as decision makers and point of contact for policy change have completed the Everyday Democracy's Self Assessment for their department:  
Justin Bingham, City Prosecutor SRLJC Admin Committee  
Cheryl Tofsrud, Pretrial Services  
Kristie Ray, Spokane County Jail Mental Health Director

The assessments completed by critical decision makers depict insight into where we are at currently with a clear line of where we would like to be as well as a willingness to engage in strategic collaboration to achieve goals related to impacting rates of recidivism and system change.